

New Boston Recreation Commission

Subject: Commissioners' Meeting
Date: January 26, 2012
Location: Old Engine House

Attendees:

Commissioners: Lee Brown, Kim Borges*, Ken Hamel, David Hulick, Jen Martin

Staff: Mike Sindoni

Guests: None

* = *excused*

1. Financial report. The 2011 report shows revenues of \$203,000 and a positive cash flow of about \$33,000. The town covers \$84,000 of the administrative expenses, meaning that the entire recreation program costs the town only \$54,000 per year. The biggest profit generating programs are afterschool, basketball, gymnastics, summer program and aerobics. The programs that are not profitable include softball, baseball, concerts, and the senior programs. The revolving account was at around \$25,000 as of the end of November.
2. Summer camp & afterschool program.
 - a. This year's fee structure. Enrollment in the summer program continues to decline, but the program still generated \$5,100. The afterschool program is still the main profit generator, producing \$32,000 in 2011. Some kids are going to the YMCA, which is also affecting the afterschool program. The YMCA charge is around \$85 per week compared to \$45 per week for the Rec program. The YMCA picks kids up in New Boston, but parents have to pick them up afterwards at the YMCA facility. The bus ride is more than an hour, taking multiple stops into account.
 - b. How can we reinvigorate the programs? Look at how we can collaborate with 4-H and Trout Unlimited. Offer special programs. Start a dialogue with 4-H. Talk to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy and Trout Unlimited, too. See if we can design some joint programming. Keep soccer camp. Add half-day camps that complement the regular summer program. Look at a nature / biology program to include instruction, hiking, fishing and outdoor activities.
 - c. Avoid raising fees for the base program. Look for revenue opportunities related to value-added programming.
3. Basketball court construction update at NBCS. Location was challenging. It was proposed to move it to the north end in the corner of the parking lot. Lee had met with Dave Elliott, who wants to put it where the pavilion used to be, but this would require relocating some playground equipment or removing some trees and rocks. Improving hillside drainage could be incorporated into the project as well. Another alternative is to reduce the size of the court. Lee is working with a total budget of around \$15,000. The PTA has contributed \$5,400. The Wiggins family is willing to support the project as well. Drainage will cost about \$15,000, but this is not part of the Recreation project. It will be funded separately. The commission supports a full-size court located where the pavilion used to be.
4. Rail-to-Trails update. The goal is to upgrade the trail (8' wide, hard-pack surface & drainage improvement). This would make it more accessible to bikers, runners & handicapped people. Lee and Burr Tupper talked to DRED (a NH agency), which owns the land on both sides of Gregg Mill Road. 4-H owns one end of the trail. Conservation owns the actual trail up to near Gregg Mill Road. Fund raising is required to pay for the project. David thinks this should be given a lower priority for the Recreation Department. There are other projects that more directly affect our programming activities. Jen questions how much the trail will be used by Recreation programs. Lee wants to show some support so that Recreation is seen to be engaged with the other organizations that will be doing the actual work. The commissioners support the initiative under these conditions.

5. Baseball/Softball update.
 - a. Fee structure. \$4,500 of the expense are one-time charges including repair to the concession stand roof. That covers about half of the loss. Enrollment was down, but the loss was significantly reduced from last year. Concessions generated positive cash flow. One proposal is to raise fees but be open to scholarships where necessary. Last year's fee was \$78 for softball and baseball (~160 kids). The T-ball fee is \$63 (~65 kids). Lee will benchmark what other towns charge. There is a \$10 fee for insurance plus \$2 for chartering. These do not apply to other sports programs. Working the concession remains a parental requirement. The commissioners agreed on an increase of \$5.00 for the softball and baseball programs. T-ball will remain unchanged.
 - b. Softball director Rick Jones is retiring. There are some prospects for a replacement. Lee is meeting with Niki Waterson tomorrow.
 - c. Grounds-keeping budget. Lee will review the numbers from 2011 with Kim and Mike in order to create a budget for 2012. They will talk with the road agent to see if they can find a better solution.
6. White Buildings fire alarm panel update. The fire department found deficiencies. Recreation split the \$6,100 repair cost with the school. The buildings are in compliance.
7. Other business.
 - a. Cheerleading will use of the van this Friday and next Friday. Mike will make the call about weather conditions. Parents will sign consent forms.
 - b. Donations in memory of Ella Daniels have totaled \$300 so far. The money is going into the grandstand account.
 - c. Lip Sync will take place on Saturday at 6:30pm. There will be a magician at 5:00pm. NB Pizza will be selling pizzas.
8. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, February 22nd at 7:00pm in the Old Engine House.

David Hulick, Secretary